



The View from the Forge: December 2007

Hello, my name is Peter Maugle, Park Ranger at Valley Forge National Historical Park. I'd like to welcome you to "The View from the Forge" – a monthly podcast of news and events from Valley Forge National Historical Park.

A new exhibit of landscape and historical portrait photography opens at the Valley Forge NHP Welcome Center on November 15. The images are the work of Audubon artist and graphic designer Mike Ticcino. Park visitors will recognize the scenes but will be struck by the way the images lead us to understand familiar landscapes in new ways. *Valley Forge: Traditional Land, Contemporary Vision* is open every day from 9:00 to 5:00 and will run through the end of February. The Welcome Center is closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

The 230th anniversary of the March-In of the Continental Army occurs in December. Visit the park for annual celebrations and events. Saturday December 15th and 16th from 1 – 3 pm, at the park's Welcome Center, children ages 6 – 12 are invited to take part in programs designed to engage their imagination. They will be able to build model log cabins, join a soldiers' march and visit the Muhlenberg Brigade to see log cabin construction in action.

On the evening of Wednesday, December 19, programs centering out of the Welcome Center will commemorate the actual date of the army's arrival with lantern-lit tours, period music, and a soldier encampment. From 6 to 8 pm, visitors will be taken on a lantern-lit guided tour along the Joseph Plumb Martin Trail to the Muhlenberg Brigade. There they can observe and interact with the troops as they prepare for the winter encampment. Throughout this celebration, the Encampment Store and the Friends of Valley Forge Park will offer free self-serve gift wrapping and complimentary holiday refreshments. Admission is free.

Trolley Tours will continue during the holiday season. These 90 minute guided tours will depart the Welcome Center at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. Join us on December 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th. Price is \$15 adults; \$9 students/senior/military; \$6 children 11 and under. For reservations or for more information contact The Encampment Store at 610-783-1074.

Boys and girls, ages 6-12 are invited to *Join the Continental Army* on January 5th, 2008. Participants will be mustered-in to the Continental Army by receiving enlistment papers and copies of Continental currency. Children will learn to stand and march like a soldier. The recruits will be issued wooden dummy muskets to learn some of the different ways Washington's soldiers would have carried these. The process for loading and firing a musket will also be practiced. Most importantly, attendees will be encouraged to return for future programs to be held the first Saturday of each month January through April. The first program will be held January 5th 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Park Theater. For more information contact 610-783-1021 and remember these are outdoor activities, so dress accordingly.

Are you interested in real artifacts from the Revolutionary War time period? Do you spend hours with your nose pressed against the museum display cases in the Welcome Center? If this sounds like you or any of your family and friends then the *Behind the Scenes Vault Tour* is right up your alley. This rare opportunity allows you to see and hear about the artifacts and original documents that rarely go on exhibit. Vault tours will be held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month by reservations only. Special arrangements can be made for groups. Tours are limited to eight people and a fee is charged. For more information and to reserve your spot please call 610.783.1020.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced that PECO Energy will close Route 23 between North Gulph Road and County Line Road at night beginning Sunday, October 28 for gas main installation. Crews will work nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through December 21. During construction, Route 23 through-traffic will detour over County Line Road to the park Welcome Center parking lot and follow the detour signs through the parking lot back to Route 23. Motorists are advised to allow extra time when traveling through the construction zone.

In addition, portions of Innerline Drive will be closed starting in mid November. Contractors will be working to restore the historic stone laid gutter, replace failing culverts and drainage features, and mill and resurface the road.

That's all for this month's "View from the Forge." As always, for more information visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/vafo.

Please come back next month for a new edition of "The View from the Forge" and remember to look for our other podcasts on iTunes titled *Valley Forge History and Culture*, and *Valley Forge Nature and Science*.